

# Report of Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2005

Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District

83 Highway 95 North

Grangeville, ID 83530

208-983-1046 ext. 3

Point of Contact

Counties served

Legislative District

Scott Wasem, Idaho SWCD Chairman

Idaho County

District 8



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## Function of the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District

To take available, technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water and related resources. The Board of Supervisors will encourage the voluntary participation of the landowners to implement best management practices, while considering the economic impact of the conservation measures in the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation District.

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### Natural Resource Improvements in 2005 - Summary

- Cottonwood Creek TMDL Implementation Phase I & II (2001-2005)
- Direct Seeding – 5,225 acres of managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface year round, while growing crops in narrow slots or tilled or residue free strips in soil previously untilled by full- width inversion implements; additionally the same acres were required to meet nutrient management standards.
- Other best management practices: filter strip, sediment basin, pasture and hay land planting, and one animal feeding operation (fencing, off-site watering, animal walkways and access roads)
- With the best management practices being implemented in the DEQ 319 Non-Point Source program and the SCC Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA), an estimated 122,030 tons of sediment did not reach the South Fork Clearwater River.
- Division II Animal Feeding Operations – Idaho County had seven active contracts since 2002, keeping 1,024 head of livestock from entering the streams. Producers have been implementing best management practices including: constructing three miles of fences, the installation of off-site watering facilities, building of access roads, animal trails and walkways, construction of diversions, stream bank and shoreline protection. The riparian area that has been improved is over 7,000 feet; thereby eliminating erosion of soil and nutrient pollution into the 303-d listed waters in Idaho County.
- BPA – Lower Red River Restoration – 1994-2004 Stream channel stability and restoring the ecosystem into a healthy, self-sustaining state by enhancing the quantity and quality of fish and wildlife habitat; this project encompasses 314 acres and 1.5 miles of Red River.



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### Conservation District Priority # 1 District Operations

- The Idaho SWCD held ten district operations meetings and six special meetings for project implementation.
- The Idaho SWCD was represented, by two supervisors and the district staff, at the IASCD Division II semi annual meetings and IASCD Annual Conference.
- The Idaho SWCD completed all required administrative and financial reports to the SCC.

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### Conservation District Priority # 2 Water Quality

### # 3 Non-irrigated Cropland

- Implementation of the best management practices was in the second year of over 30 contracts; three new contracts were signed. The Idaho SWCD was revising the participant eligibility policy in the spring of 2005, then announcing a second sign up period that ended in July 2005. In June, six applications had been received.

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### Conservation District Priority # 4 Animal Waste Management

- Completion of seven animal feeding operations; cost share funding from 319 and WQPA.
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## Conservation District Priority # 5 Rangeland

- Idaho Weed Initiative – provide technical assistance to promote weed management practices.

### Information & Education/ Public Outreach

- Present annual budget to the County Commissioners, including a presentation on district accomplishments.
- Quarterly newsletter – informational articles on best management practice implementation and funding assistance programs; (October, January, April, July); mailing list of 900.
- Conservation Tree Program – free distribution of 6000 seedlings received from the USFS; conservation sales of 7240 tree and shrub seedlings; approximately 100 landowners benefited.
- Grangeville 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom and Field presentation; (9/04) students (75) adults (25).
- Grazing Conference – coordinated with the NRCS and IASCD Division II; (January 2005) 150 adults.
- Idaho State Capitol – Idaho SWCD display at Legislative Session (February 22-23).
- Attend cereal grain growers annual spring meeting – encourage producers to contact the district office for technical and financial assistance with bmp implementation; 150 adults.
- Idaho County Fair – ISWCD information booth (August 2004)

### Community Collaboration & Coordination

- Idaho County Local Working Group – ID SWCD convenes the LWG for review of the Farm Bill Programs being administered by the NRCS; the agencies invited to participate are: IDFG, IDL, BLM, FSA, Idaho County Committee for FSA, UI Extension Services, Nez Perce Tribe, NRCS and ID SWCD.
- South Fork Clearwater River Watershed Advisory Group (SFCWAG) – TMDL Assessment and program implementation; administrative assistance as directed by the SFCWAG and DEQ.
- IASCD 2004 Conference – hosted by IASCD Division II: Clearwater, Latah, Lewis, Nezperce and Idaho SWCD; conference attendance 250 adults.
- City of Grangeville – Arbor Day Celebration. The Idaho SWCD submitted the grant application for the City; the district was responsible for coordinating the community activities.

### Synopsis of Assistance Coordinated for Constituents with Conservation Partners –

to plan, design and implement best management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve Idaho's renewable natural resources.

Source	Purpose/Benefit	Funded Amount
ID Soil Conservation Commission (SCC)	District Operations – Base & Match	\$ 10,118.00
Idaho County Commissioner's	District Operations – Base Budget	\$ 4,000.00
Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)	Red River Restoration/administration	\$ 104,796.00
ID Department of Environmental Quality	319-NPS – TMDL Implementation/admin	\$ 40,800.00
Idaho SCC	WQPA – TMDL Implementation/admin	\$ 52,224.00
Idaho SCC / Idaho DEQ	Division II AFO Implementation/admin	\$ 22,376.00
Idaho SCC / Idaho DEQ	WAG – Admin. Assistance	\$ 1,735.00
Nat. Res. Conservation Service (NRCS)	Farm Bill/Non-FB – Admin. Assistance	\$ 5,187.00
Idaho Association of Conservation Districts	Farm Bill/Non-FB – Admin. Assistance	\$ 10,000.00
USDA – Conservation Security Program Environmental Quality Incentive Program Conservation Reserve Program	CSP 153 new contracts EQIP 7 new contracts CRP 8 new contracts	\$ 1.6 million
The CSP is a program to reward the best conservation and other Farm Bill programs are to motivate the rest.		

*Idaho Conservation Districts assisting  
landowners and operators  
with their conservation choices and  
implementation of  
best management practices.*

